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Environmental Center

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SB 1300 SD 2

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEVELOP AN ALIEN SPECIES ACTION PLAN

House Committee on Finance

Public Hearing - April 5, 1993
2:00 P.M., Room 908 SOT

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Charles Lamoureux, Lyon Arboretum
Cliff Smith, Cooperative Parks Unit

SB 1300 SD 2 would appropriate funds to support development of a comprehensive, multi-agency alien species action plan to prevent introduction of and control populations of non-native species of plants and animals.

Our statement on this bill does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Dimensions of the alien species problem have been explicitly presented in the excellent report, "Alien Pest Species in Hawaii: Background Study and Recommendations for Interagency Planning", produced by the Natural Resources Defense Council with the assistance of the Nature Conservancy. Substantive testimony on this proposed appropriation has been presented by Dr. Cliff Smith of the Cooperative Parks Unit, and we strongly endorse his comments. Primarily, what is needed is an extraordinary effort to integrate the federal, state, and county level government organizations to implement the control and prevention measures which have been articulated by the expert community for addressing this critical issue. We note that in a survey of academic, government and business leaders which the Environmental Center conducted, the threat to native species and habitats was identified as the state's most serious environmental problem. Although many factors contribute to this threat, alien species invasion is of greatest concern due to the lack of defenses against competition possessed by native species. We, therefore, strongly urge the full funding of this measure as a commitment to future generations.